

## Cash Sought To Help Hurricane Victims, Volunteers Should Not Self-Dispatch

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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Voluntary organizations are seeking cash donations to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina in Gulf Coast states, according to Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response. But, volunteers should not report directly to the affected areas unless directed by a voluntary agency.

"Cash donations are especially helpful to victims," Brown said. "They allow volunteer agencies to issue cash vouchers to victims so they can meet their needs. Cash donations also allow agencies to avoid the labor-intensive need to store, sort, pack and distribute donated goods. Donated money prevents, too, the prohibitive cost of air or sea transportation that donated goods require."

Volunteer agencies provide a wide variety of services after disasters, such as clean up, childcare, housing repair, crisis counseling, sheltering and food.

"We're grateful for the outpouring of support already," Brown said. "But it's important that volunteer response is coordinated by the professionals who can direct volunteers with the appropriate skills to the hardest-hit areas where they are needed most. Self-dispatched volunteers and especially sightseers can put themselves and others in harm's way and hamper rescue efforts."

Here is a list of phone numbers set up solely for cash donations and/or volunteers.

Donate cash to:

American Red Cross  
1-800-HELP NOW (435-7669) English,  
1-800-257-7575 Spanish;

Operation Blessing  
1-800-436-6348

America's Second Harvest  
1-800-344-8070

Donate Cash to and Volunteer with:

Adventist Community Services  
1-800-381-7171

Catholic Charities, USA  
703 549-1390

Christian Disaster Response  
941-956-5183 or 941-551-9554

Christian Reformed World Relief Committee  
1-800-848-5818

Church World Service  
1-800-297-1516

Convoy of Hope  
417-823-8998

Lutheran Disaster Response  
800-638-3522

Mennonite Disaster Service  
717-859-2210

Nazarene Disaster Response  
888-256-5886

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
800-872-3283

Salvation Army  
1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769)

Southern Baptist Convention -- Disaster Relief  
1-800-462-8657, ext. 6440

United Methodist Committee on Relief  
1-800-554-8583

For further information: visit the website for the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) at: <http://www.nvoad.org/>.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.